

Application Serial No.: 09/970,939
Amendment dated February 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated August 20, 2003

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8 are presently active in this case, Claims 2, 3, and 5-8 having been amended and Claim 1 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to because Figures 6 and 7 were not designated by a legend, such as Prior Art. Submitted concurrently herewith is a Replacement Sheet which includes changes to Figures 6 and 7 to include the legend "Related Art," which corresponds to language used on page 1 of the specification. Accordingly, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the above objection to the drawings.

Additionally, the Official Action objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing features recited in original Claim 7. Furthermore, Claims 7 and 8 were objected to for minor informalities, and Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for unclear language in Claim 7. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to address the antecedent basis problems and in order to clarify the features recited therein. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to Claims 7 and 8 overcome the drawing objections, claim objections, and claim rejections discussed above.

A non-limiting embodiment of the subject matter recited in Claims 7 and 8 is depicted in Figure 4 and described in the specification. Figure 4 shows that one end of a pair of parallel disposed elastic beams 32 is fixed to a connection plate 38 via a displaceable member 31, the other end of one of the pair of elastic beams 32 is fixed to an outer side wall of an

outer slider 33 via the displaceable member 31, and the other end of the other of the pair of elastic beams 32 is fixed to a fixed portion 39 fixed on a substrate 34 via the displaceable member 31. Figure 4 also shows that one end of a pair of parallel disposed elastic beams 35 is fixed to the connection plate 38 via the displaceable member 37, the other end of one of the pair of elastic beams 35 is fixed to an inner side wall of the outer slider 33 via the displaceable member 37, and the other end of the other of the pair of elastic beams 35 is fixed to an inner side wall that protrudes in the axial direction of the inner slider 36 via the displaceable member 37 (see the spot shown by reference numeral 37 in Figure 4).

The Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claims 7 and 8 are definite, the antecedent basis problems have been overcome, and the drawing objections are moot in view of the claims amendments. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the drawing objections, claim objections, and claim rejections discussed above.

Claims 1, 5/1, and 6/1 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ozaki et al. (JP 05-116,757). Claims 1, 5/1, and 6/1 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saif et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,003). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saif et al. in view of Fan et al. The Applicant submits that the art rejections are moot for the reasons discussed below.

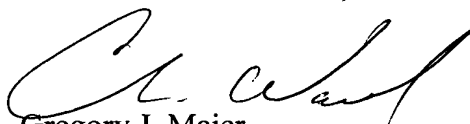
Claims 2, 3, 4, 5/2, 5/3, 6/2, 6/3, 7/2, 7/3, and 8 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form, and thus are allowable. As the remaining claims depend from either Claim 2 or Claim 3, the remaining pending claims are also allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the art rejections.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

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